Messrs. A. Eachara Menon,
T. K. L. Kunjuvareed,
P. V. Sebastian,
K. A. Raghavan,
P. A. Mohammed Ashrof and
Mrs. T. Francis.

Diwan President: The Government thought that the official members should be neutral on this occasion because whatever may be convention, this occasion is unique, we are getting a non-official President and Government thought it more desirable to leave the non-official President's election entirely to the elected members. Another point. There was also the intention to save them from a possible allegation that they voted this side or that. These were the motives that actuated the Government to instruct the officials to remain neutral. I can see nothing illegal or wrong about it, and I cannot agree with Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan in his point of order.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Upon the breaking of a longstanding convention in this behalf I propose to register my symbolic protest by walking out of this House for five minutes, (Laughter) and only five minutes.

The votes were then counted

Diwan President.—Out of 42, one is invalid, of the remaining 41 Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan gets 14 and Mr. L. M. Pylee gets 27. Mr. L. M. Pylee is declared elected as the President. Please come here and take the Chair.

The Hon'ble President M. R. Ry. L. M. Pylee Avl., M. A., B. L., took the Chair.

4. CONGRATULATORY SPEECHES

The Diwan: Mr. President and Hon'ble Members,

It has indeed been a great pleasure to me to have had the privilege of conducting the election of the first non-official President to this House. The election is in pursuance of His Highness' gracious acceptance of your desire. Your desire to elect your President is very legitimate, and I venture to say, has been realised none too soon. On this occasion, and on behalf of us all, permit me to express our grateful thanks to His Highness for conferring this very valued privilege on this House, without the delay involved in waiting for the recommendations of the Constitutional Advisory Committee which is now sitting to consider further constitutional changes.

This occasion is unique. It opens a new chapter in the history of this House. The responsibilities of this House are already great. They have become greater when at no distant date further constitutional changes will be introduced. The responsibilities of the Hon'ble President of the House will correspondingly increase too. His task is not an easy one. On him rests the duty of arriving at quick and impartial decisions in conducting business. In this, he will need your co-operation in full. I request you to extend to your new President the same help and co-operation which I know you have always extended to the Diwan-President, to enable him to maintain the high standard and traditions of your House.

I congratulate you, Sir, on your elevation. You are above parties. You are the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House. I have no doubt that with the knowledge of procedure and practice which you have already acquired as the Deputy President, you will discharge your great responsibilities always with courage, dignity and impartiality and in accordance with the best parliamentary traditions. As the Diwan of Cochin I offer you my congratulations and wish you success in discharging the duties of your high office.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ഗോവിന്ദമേനോൻ : മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട്, സർ, ഇന്ന് ഈ സഭക്ക് ഒരു സുദിനമാണ്; ഈ രാജ്യത്തിനും ഒരു സുദിനമാണ്. വളരെക്കാലമായി ഈ സഭക്ക് ഒരു തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട പ്രസിഡണ്ട് വേണം എന്ന് ഇവിടെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആ ആവശ്യമായ ആവശ്യം സാധിച്ചതു് ഇന്നാണ്. അതു സാധിക്കുന്നതിനു സഹായകമായിനിന്ന സകല ശക്തികളോടും, വ്യക്തികളോടും ഈയവസരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ നന്ദി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഈ സഭയുടെ കഴിഞ്ഞ സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ഒരു തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട പ്രസിഡണ്ടു വേണമെന്ന ഒരു പ്രമേയം പാസ്സായി. അതു പാസ്സായതിനു ശേഷം, ആ പ്രമേയമനുസരിച്ച് ഉടനെ നടപടികൾ നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നു മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമേനിയെ

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[Mr. P. Govinda Menon]

ഉപദേശിച്ചു നമ്മുടെ ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളും ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്റെ മറ്റു ഭാഗങ്ങളും ഈ സഭയുടെ കൃത്യജ്ഞതയും, അനുമോദനത്തിനും അർഹരാണു്. മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമേനി യെ ഈ സ്ഥാനത്തിൽ വെച്ചു സ്തുതിക്കുന്നതു യോഗനടപടികൾക്കു യോജിച്ചതല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു് ആ ഭാഗത്തേക്കു ഞാൻ പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നില്ല.

രണ്ടാമതായി എനിക്കു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു്, സർ, അങ്ങയെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്. ഈ സഭയുടെ ആദ്യത്തെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട പ്രസിഡണ്ടു് എന്നുള്ള മഹിമയേറിയ, അഭികാമ്യ മായ സ്ഥാനത്തേക്കു് ആദ്യമായി അധിരോഹണം ചെയ്യുവാൻ സാധിച്ച അങ്ങു്, കൊച്ചി യുടെ ചരിത്രത്തിൽ ചിരകാലം സ്മരിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു വ്യക്തിയായിരിക്കും. അതിനുള്ള ഭാഗ്യധേയം, അതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യം, അതിനുള്ള അവസരം, അങ്ങക്കു കിട്ടുവാൻ, അങ്ങയു ടെ ഈ നിയമസഭയിലെ ദീർഘകാലത്തെ സമർത്ഥമായ ജീവിതവും, ഡെപ്യൂട്ടി പ്രസിഡണ്ടു് എന്ന നിലയിൽ അങ്ങു കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു കൊല്ലക്കാലത്തോളം നടത്തിയ പ്രവർത്തനവും അങ്ങക്കു് സഹായമായിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നാണു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ സഭയുടെ അവകാശങ്ങൾ, ഈ സഭയുടെ അധികാരങ്ങൾ, ഈ സഭയുടെ ഉയർച്ച, ഈ സഭയുടെ ഉൽക്കർഷം, ഈ സഭയുടെ ഭാവി അങ്ങയുടെ ഭദ്രഹസ്തങ്ങളിൽ അർപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു്, ആ ഹസ്തങ്ങളിൽ അവയെല്ലാം സുരക്ഷിതമായിരിക്കുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു്, ഞാൻ അങ്ങയെ ഈ സഭക്കു വേണ്ടി ഹാർദ്ദമായി, സന്തോഷത്തോടുകൂടി, ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി അനുമോദിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, it is indeed a great privilege for any Hon'ble Member of this House to be able to occupy the Chair which, I am sure, you will be occupying with distinction. This Chair, as I have been used to assert and reassert according to me, Sir, is the next only to the throne of His Highness, is one, which the occupant of which should be one who, as was so appropriately mentioned by the Diwan, is the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House but also the respector of the established conventions. In your hands, Sir, in your person, Sir, in your long association with politics, Sir, having been for long a professor of political economy in one of the first rate first grade colleges, your being a member of this House for long, your being the Deputy President, a worthy Deputy President, who got that place by a clean, clear majority of this House, I am sure, Sir, in your hands, whatever, this House cherishes to be their privilege, their rights, are safe. That is my honest belief and experience hereafter, is going to prove the correctness of my statement. And in the discharge of the onerous duties of your high office, your capacity, your qualification, and your manners, I am sure, Sir, will stand you in good stead. The other part namely the hearty co-operations of all the sections of the House inclusive of individual, unattached members like myself and one or two others, though I am not entitled to answer for them but only for myself but still as their self-assumed spokesman can always be counted upon. The whole-hearted and sincere co-operation which partly contributes to the success of the Office of the President of any Chamber, any Legislative Council, that, Sir, is there, your capacity with the combination of such co-operation, I am sure, Sir, will raise you to the status of the eminent Speakers of the House of Commons in England. And if there is any better House elsewhere even of that. That is the eye with which I look at your elevation. It is only an accident, Sir, that I had to be a contestant to this high office. It is, Sir, certain other reasons that induced me to contest and what it is you know, I know and some others also know. My opposition, Sir, was not against the person of the contestant, it was, Sir, for something and that is clearly seen in the smiling way the defeat is taken. I am, Mr. President, generally glad that in my defeat I get the rare opportunity of congratulating the First President of this Hon'ble House an old and esteemed friend of mine. I wish you well, Sir, in your office which, I am sure in the Secretariat section of it and various other fields in which the speaker of the House has to get extended powers I am sure, Sir, your mettle will be seen before long. Let me once again congratulate you and pray to God Almighty to stand by you.

Mr. President: Hon'ble Members, I thank you for having elected me as the fist non-official President of the Council. As the Diwan remarked, it is a new chapter that has been opened today in the history of our legislature. To this I may add, that the event of this election is a land mark in the history of the constitutional progress in our State. I am sure that I am only echoing your sentiments when I give expression to our gratitude to His Highness, our beloved Maharaja, for allowing this House to elect its own President. I should make special mention of the fact that this important boon was granted by His Highness mainly because of the advice tendered by our new Diwan, Diwan Bahadur C. P. Karunakara Menon,

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whom we have the privilege to have in our midst on this occasion. Hon'ble Members, I assure you that I shall try my utmost to fulfil satisfactorily and faithfully my duties as the President of the Council and particularly to safeguard the rights and privileges of this House as their custodian. I am very thankful for the great sentiments expressed by the Diwan and by the Hon'ble Members representing you and I am thankful also for the co-operation that has been promised to me in my work. Yes, it is this co-operation that I look forward to so that with your help, I may be able to discharge my duties without fear or favour (hear, hear) and faithful to the trust that is placed in me. Sir, and the Hon'ble Members, I thank you once more.

(The House rose for lunch at 1-40 p.m. and re-assembled at 2-50 p.m. with the Hon'ble President in the Chair)

5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

JAGGERY SOLD IN FAIR PRICE SHOPS—SHORTAGE IN WEIGHT

291. മിസ്റ്റർ ജോസ് കെ. വർഗ്ഗീസ്: താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് സദയം മറുപടി പറയുമോ.—

ന്യായവില ഷാപ്പുകളിൽനിന്നു കാർഡുപ്രകാരം കിട്ടുന്ന ശർക്കരയുടെയും പഞ്ചസാരയുടെയും തൂക്കത്തിൽ കുറവുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള പത്രറിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ഗോവിന്ദമേനോൻ.

ഇന്ന പത്രമെന്നോ ഇന്ന തീയ്യതിയിലത്തെ റിപ്പോർട്ടെന്നോ കാണിക്കാതെ ഉത്തരം പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

OVERLOADING OF PASSENGERS IN SERVICE BUSES

292. Mr. M. K. Raja (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what measures, if any, have the Traffic Department been taking during the last few weeks to prevent overloading of the public passenger buses;

(*b*) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that great inconvenience is being caused to the public by the inability of the present services to handle the passenger traffic on the various routes;

(*c*) what action has been taken to mitigate this inconvenience?

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar (*Minister for Public Health*):

(*a*) All the bus owners, drivers and conductors were given a final warning that very severe action will be taken against them if detected for overloads. Commissioner of Police himself paid surprise checks and detected a few cases. Prosecutions were ordered and the officers were instructed to press for deterrent sentences by Courts.

(*b*) Government are aware of the fact that there is some inconvenience on certain routes.

(*c*) All possible action has been taken.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* With regard to answer to sub-division (c), may I have an idea of the nature of all the "possible action" that has been taken by the Government.

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):* In several routes additional buses have been put, some buses were allowed to have more number of trips. Additional buses were provided; additional trips also were allowed.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the Government is satisfied that the congestion in the trafic has been removed by the action which has been referred to here?

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):* In some places even now I understand there is some congestion and that question is being looked into.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know if the Government is of opinion that the inability of the present buses to handle all the trafic in the respective routes is partly but directly due to the stringency of the measures regarding overloading which the Government have undertaken recently?

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